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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/995,101	11/27/2001	Paul Fazio	3712/31	9385
7590	12/31/2003		EXAMINER	
Michael H. Baniak BANIAK PINE & GANNON Suite 1200 150 N. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60201				BINDA, GREGORY JOHN
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3679		
DATE MAILED: 12/31/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/995,101	FAZIO, PAUL
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Greg Binda	3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 November 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4 . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of a coupling apparatus in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 5-15 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 6.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed Apr 4, 2002 fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.98(b) because the reference titled "Wrap Around" is not identified with a publication date. The reference has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits. Applicant is advised that the date of any re-submission of any item of information contained in this information disclosure statement or the submission of any missing element(s) will be the date of submission for purposes of determining compliance with the requirements based on the time of filing the statement, including all certification requirements for statements under 37 CFR 1.97(e). See MPEP § 609 ¶ C(1).

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to because each of Figs. 2-8 is a myriad of overlapping full and broken lines. As such the drawings lack the clarity required to provide clear disclosure of the invention.

5. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because each of reference numerals 103-107 & 112 is used to identify a part on first yoke 102 and then another part on second yoke 104. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

6. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

7. The use of the trademarks has been noted in this application. A trademark should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.
Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

8. The disclosure is objected to because:
 - a. Page 2 includes footnotes.
 - b. Page 2, lines 20+, includes sentences beginning with pleas for the reader to "imagine". Such, these pleas are inappropriate in document intended to be published as a United States Patent.
 - c. Page 5, lines 2-4 are inappropriate.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

9. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.
10. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the best mode contemplated by the inventor has not been disclosed. Evidence of concealment of the best mode is based upon the fact that the elected invention is, at best, hidden within the wholly inadequate drawings of said invention. The ineffectual and improper (see the Draftsperson's Objections on the PTO-948 attached to this action) use of bold lines, as in Figs. 4-8, shows applicant was aware that the details of the claimed invention were concealed under the blur of intersecting lines found in the drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

12. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stokely, US 3,204,428. Figs. 1-4 show a coupling apparatus 10 comprising: a first yoke A-1, a second yoke B-1, a universal joint cross C, a first internal restricted swing mechanism (right most element G in Fig. 2, shown also in Fig. 1), a second internal restricted swing mechanism (left most element G in Fig. 2), four bearings D, and four bearing mounts F. First yoke A-1 includes two tines 11, a shaft connector A, an inner yoke surface (see Fig. 2) and an outer yoke surface. First yoke B-1 includes two tines 12, a shaft connector B, an inner yoke surface (see Fig. 1) and an outer yoke surface. Fig. 3 shows the universal joint cross C includes four ends. Figs. 2 & 4 show the four ends of the cross C pivotally connected to the tines 11 & 12. Figs. 1 & 2 show the first internal swing restricted mechanism G sized and shaped to approximate the inner yoke surface of the first yoke A-1 between the tines 11 of the first yoke A-1 and pivotally attached to the first and second tines 12 of the second yoke B-1. Figs. 1 & 2 show the second internal swing restricted mechanism G sized and shaped to approximate the inner yoke surface of the second yoke B-1 between the tines 12 of the second yoke B-1 and pivotally attached to the first and second tines 11 of the first yoke A-1.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Cathcart, Kiehne, Williams, Durham and Geisthoff each show a universal joint.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Binda whose telephone number is (703) 305-2869. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 9:30 am to 7:00 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne, can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone number is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168 and 308-1113.



Greg Binda
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679